



## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. **(Currently Amended)** A container neck comprising:  
a finish terminating in an opening;  
a circumferential upper sidewall connected to said finish at an end opposite said opening;  
a lower sidewall below said upper sidewall; and  
a hollow annular flange extending radially outwardly between said upper and said lower sidewalls, wherein the flange includes undulations in [[on]] a top surface thereof, at least a portion of the undulations extending radially outwardly and downwardly from said upper sidewall to strengthen the container neck.
2. **(Original)** The container neck of claim 1, wherein said undulations comprise peaks and valleys.
3. **(Original)** The container neck of claim 2, wherein said undulations are arcuate.
4. **(Original)** The container neck of claim 3, wherein said undulations form an approximately sinusoidal wave at the point of connection with said upper sidewall.
5. **(Original)** The container neck of claim 2, wherein said undulations have linear sides and a substantially triangular shape.
6. **(Original)** The container neck of claim 1, further comprising threads disposed on an outer surface of said finish.
7. **(Previously Presented)** The container neck of claim 1, wherein said flange comprises a ledge extending beyond an outer periphery of said undulations.
8. **(Previously Presented)** The container neck of claim 1, wherein the container is

adapted for hot-fill processing.



9. **(Original)** The container neck of claim 2, comprising eight peaks.
10. **(Currently Amended)** A container comprising  
a neck portion comprising  
a finish terminating in an opening;  
a circumferential upper sidewall connected to said finish at an end opposite  
said opening;  
a lower sidewall below said upper sidewall; and  
a hollow annular flange extending radially outwardly between said upper and  
said lower sidewalls, wherein the flange includes undulations in [[on]] a top surface thereof, at least  
a portion of the undulations extending radially outwardly and downwardly from said upper sidewall  
to strengthen the neck portion;  
a transition region extending from the neck portion to a tubular container sidewall  
portion; and  
a base portion below said container sidewall portion.
11. **(Previously Presented)** The container of claim 10, wherein said undulations are  
arcuate.
12. **(Original)** The container of claim 11, wherein said undulations form an  
approximately sinusoidal wave at the point of connection with said upper sidewall.
13. **(Original)** The container of claim 10, wherein said undulations are linear forming  
a triangular shape.
14. **(Original)** The container of claim 10, further comprising threads disposed on an  
outer surface of said finish.
15. **(Original)** The container of claim 10, wherein said undulations comprise peaks

and valleys.

16. ***(Previously Presented)*** The container of claim 10, wherein the container is adapted for hot fill processing.

17. ***(Previously Presented)*** The container of claim 10, wherein said flange comprises a ledge extending beyond an outer periphery of said undulations.

18. ***(Original)*** The container of claim 15, comprising eight peaks.

19. ***(Previously Presented)*** The container of claim 10, said container sidewall portion comprising four substantially planar panels wherein opposite planar panels are substantially parallel.

20. ***(Previously Presented)*** The container of claim 19, wherein the container sidewall portion comprises an inset between two adjacent planar panels.

21. ***(Previously Presented)*** The container of claim 19, wherein said container sidewall portion comprises an arcuate panel connecting two adjacent planar panels.

22. ***(Original)*** The container of claim 21, further comprising an inset in the arcuate panel between two adjacent panels.

23. ***(Original)*** The container of claim 22, comprising two insets in arcuate panels that are diagonally disposed from one another.

24. ***(Original)*** The container of claim 10, said container sidewall comprising an upper bumper and a lower bumper and an inset region between said upper bumper and said lower bumper.

25-31. ***(Canceled)***